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TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Seventh session
New York, 28-31 May 1991

DRAFT REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Annex I

Draft decisions recommended by the Working Group

DRAFT DECISION I

Rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 5/7 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989, paragraphs 13 and 15, and decision 90/43 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 20 June 1990,

1. Takes note of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of the United Nations development system concerning TCDC, a/ and of the report by the Administrator b/ on the views of the organizations of the United Nations development system on that report;

2. Takes note also of the report of the Meeting of Governments of Developing Countries and Executing Agencies of the United Nations Development System on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; c/

3. Recommends to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme the convening in early 1992 of a special meeting of TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system to be devoted to the task of preparing guidelines for the review of policies and procedures in those organizations concerning TCDC;

4. Further recommends that these guidelines be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination and transmitted to the High-level Committee for its consideration and adoption and for subsequent implementation by the organizations;

5. Further recommends that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, through the meetings of TCDC focal points of the organizations, monitor the implementation of the guidelines on a regular basis;

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a/ DP/1990/77.

b/ TCDC/7/10.

c/ TCDC/WP/1991/L.2.

6. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the progress of the implementation of the present decision.

DRAFT DECISION II

Intergovernmental programming exercises for TCDC

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 42/179 of 11 December 1987 and decision 44/450 of 22 December 1989 on further strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling also its decision 6/5 of 29 September 1989 on the promotion of TCDC programming exercises, including meetings for negotiations with respect to technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the progress report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme d/ on strengthening and improving intergovernmental programming for TCDC which reviews the exercises and meetings convened during 1989 and 1990;

2. Takes note also of the fact that the TCDC programming exercises are being evaluated by independent consultants under the auspices of the Special Unit for TCDC with the view to increasing and improving the effectiveness of exercises in further strengthening TCDC;

3. Encourages Governments of developing countries which have formalized bilateral TCDC projects and activities through past TCDC programming exercises, to continue to provide the necessary financial and other resources to facilitate their implementation, including, where necessary, support from their country IPFs;

4. Calls upon the international community to continue to provide support to supplement the resources of the developing countries in the implementation of projects agreed on in TCDC programming exercises;

5. Calls upon the Administrator to ensure the implementation as per agreed schedule programming exercises for which memoranda of understanding have been signed with Governments;

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d/ TCDC/7/4.

6. Requests the Administrator to undertake follow-up and evaluation of the programming exercises and, at the request of the participating developing countries, mobilize financial support for the projects and proposals agreed upon by the concerned countries;

7. Invites the Governments of developing countries to carry out follow-up and evaluation of TCDC projects and to communicate their results to the Special Unit for TCDC so as to facilitate the adoption of remedial measures;

8. Invites Governments of developing countries to identify ways and means for ensuring that TCDC projects are consistent with national development plans and objectives;

9. Stresses the need for the United Nations development system to emphasize the importance of the sectoral approach and TCDC regional, interregional and global programming exercises;

10. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision with particular emphasis on the outcome of the evaluation of the exercises.

DRAFT DECISION III

Strengthening the capacity of the Special Unit for TCDC

The High-level Committee,

Recalling its decisions 3/8 of 6 June 1983, 4/3 of 5 June 1985, 5/2 of 27 May 1987 and 6/8 of 29 September 1989 concerning the strengthening of the Special Unit for TCDC in order to enable it to discharge all its mandated responsibilities effectively,

Recalling also decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 23 June 1990 designating TCDC as one of the six priority areas of UNDP activities during the fifth programming cycle,

Taking note of the rationale which has necessitated the staffing restrictions across the board in the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme e/ and of the arrangements proposed therein for staffing the Special Unit for TCDC during the 1992-1993 biennium;

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e/ TCDC/7/8.

2. Recommends that the status of those staff members who are funded from the Special Programme Resources should be regularized;

3. Recommends further that the present structure of the Special Unit for TCDC be maintained with a view, inter alia, to strengthening its capacity to continue to execute its functions effectively;

4. Invites the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to review at its fortieth session the staffing level of the Special Unit for TCDC in relation to its mandated functions and growing responsibilities when considering the budgetary proposals for UNDP headquarters for the 1994-1995 biennium;

5. Welcomes the inclusion of the Director of the Special Unit for TCDC in the Action Committee of the UNDP and calls upon the Administrator also to include the Special Unit in other internal decision-making bodies of the organization, and to enable it to participate more closely in all policy and operational issues, in project approval, in country and intercountry programming processes, and in regional meetings of regional bureaux, in order to ensure that the TCDC option receives the attention that it deserves.

DRAFT DECISION IV

Information from Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme entitled "Information from some Governments and intergovernmental organizations on their activities in technical cooperation among developing countries; f/

2. Encourages the developing countries to continue to strengthen their national focal points for TCDC with a view to enabling them to promote and coordinate TCDC activities at the country level;

3. Encourages Governments of developed countries to continue to give their full support, in the endeavours of developing countries, in the identification, formulation and implementation of TCDC activities in the framework of recommendations 35 and 36 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

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f/ TCDC/7/3.

g/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

4. Requests the Special Unit for TCDC:

(a) To improve and submit in a timely manner formats and questionnaires to Governments when requesting information from them on their support to TCDC activities;

(b) To provide, together with these requests, clear definitions of TCDC and of different categories of TCDC activities and to illustrate their explanations with relevant examples;

(c) To include in the questionnaires a breakdown of personnel employed in TCDC activities between experts from developing and from developed countries;

(d) To cooperate with the DAC working group on statistics and the further improvement of information to be obtained from Governments on their TCDC activities with a view to eventually integrating support to TCDC in standard DAC reporting formats;

5. Invites Governments and intergovernmental organizations of developing and developed countries to provide to the Special Unit for TCDC information pertaining to their activities in TCDC in the ensuing two-year period, not later than 30 December 1992, to facilitate the preparation of the Administrator's report, in a timely manner, to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

DRAFT DECISION V

Progress made by the United Nations development system in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Emphasizing the important role that technical cooperation among developing countries can play in promoting socio-economic development in these countries,

Recalling decision 90/34 adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on designating TCDC as one of the six priority areas of UNDP activity during the fifth programming cycle,

Expressing concern that the resources made available from the United Nations development system for activities, programmes and projects for technical cooperation among developing countries have remained at an inadequate level despite the high priority that the international community attaches to TCDC,

Expressing concern also over the continuing inability of many of the organizations of the United Nations development system to measure their support for TCDC in quantitative and financial terms which would reliably demonstrate the extent of progress achieved over preceding periods,

Expressing further concern over the uncertainty still prevailing among several organizations in distinguishing TCDC activities from non-TCDC activities, especially those under regional, interregional and global programmes being supported by the organizations,

Taking note (with appreciation) of the report of the Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points of the Organizations of the United Nations Development System, h/

Recalling its decisions 5/5 of 27 May 1987 and 6/3 of 29 September 1989 concerning its review of the activities of the United Nations development system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 6/6 of 29 September 1989 concerning the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries, and 6/7 of 29 September 1989 concerning the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, and all other relevant decisions,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action;

2. Welcomes the efforts to provide greater support to TCDC activities made by the ten organizations of the United Nations development system that have provided information on their TCDC activities to the High-level Committee;

3. Strongly urges the organizations of the United Nations development system to develop, without further delay, the capability to measure in quantitative and financial terms their support for TCDC activities;

4. Considers that the figures contained in the Administrator's report give a highly inaccurate representation of the actual amount of support extended by the United Nations Development System for TCDC activities, which probably is based on an inaccurate understanding of what constitutes TCDC or TCDC support activities;

5. Emphasizes that the definition of TCDC formulated by the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations concerning TCDC in its report a/ should become the touchstone for determining whether or not a particular project indeed is a TCDC project;

6. Recommends, that the next meeting of the TCDC focal points of the organizations of the United Nations development system address itself to this

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h/ TCDC/7/6.

question and develop a common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting, and following up on their TCDC activities in accordance with the general principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and in subsequent decisions of the High-level Committee, and as elaborated in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, based on the interpretation of TCDC formulated therein;

7. Reaffirms that the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in its report i/ concerning United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action remain valid, and calls upon the United Nations development system fully to implement those recommendations;

8. Further recommends that the common methodology for identifying, evaluating, reporting and following up on TCDC activities thus developed should be used by all organizations in the preparation of the progress report for the eighth session of the High-level Committee;

9. Reaffirms the request contained in General Assembly resolution 42/180 of 11 December 1980, paragraph 10, relating to measures for enabling each developing country to have the choice of executing each technical cooperation project in total or in part under the TCDC modality;

10. Decides that the reporting at future sessions of the High-level Committee on this and related subjects shall be based on a single document containing an analysis of the information to be provided by the organizations with conclusions and recommendations as appropriate, along with addenda giving in greater detail the information provided by the organizations;

11. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider effective measures to accelerate the pace of the use of the TCDC modality in the execution of sectoral projects financed from regional, interregional and global programmes and Special Programme Resources as appropriate;

12. Requests the Administrator of United Nations Development Programme to instruct the resident representatives to include the TCDC modality, wherever appropriate, in technical cooperation projects;

13. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations development system to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Third Meeting of the TCDC Focal Points h/ and invites the meeting of the TCDC focal points to be held preceding the next session of the High-level Committee to report on the implementation of these recommendations by the organizations of the United Nations development system;

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i/ JIU/REP/85/3 (see A/40/656).

14. Reaffirms its decisions 5/5, entitled "Progress made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cocperation among Developing Countries" and 6/3, entitled "Review of the activities of the United Nations system within the framework of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries" and calls for their full implementation;

15. Encourages the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system fully to integrate the TCDC modality or its components in the formulation and execution of projects in their regular programmes and trust funds and enhance the financing of projects;

16. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision and on the status of implementation by the United Nations development system of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit;

17. Further requests the Administrator, in conformity with standard practices to make reports available at least six weeks before the session of the High-level Committee.

DRAFT DECISION VI

Development of a strategy of TCDC in the United Nations development system

The High-level Committee,

Appreciating that several useful exercises have been undertaken, and some are under way, to examine and evaluate specific aspects of technical cooperation among developing countries including the Joint Inspection Unit report on the United Nations development system support to the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, i/ the report of the meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on the rules, regulations and procedures of the organizations of United Nations development system concerning TCDC and the evaluation of TCDC programming exercises by independent consultants currently under way,

Convinced that many lessons have been, and are being, learned from TCDC projects and activities carried out by developing countries themselves through bilateral and multilateral arrangements with the assistance of the United Nations development system,

Recalling the particular catalytic and promotional role of the United Nations Development Programme and, in this context, the allocation of funds from the UNDP Special Programme Resources for the promotion of TCDC,

Noting further that the fifth programming cycle for the utilization of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme begins in 1992 and that the Governing Council will review TCDC in depth at its thirty-ninth session,

Recognizing the importance of developing, in accordance with the principles established in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, a strategy for the United Nations development system that will more efficiently respond to the needs of developing countries in the application of TCDC for the 1990s,

1. Endorses the proposal of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that an overall framework for the promotion and application of TCDC in technical cooperation programmes and activities of the United Nations development system in the 1990s be formulated in accordance with the guidelines of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, taking fully into account the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, the Joint Inspection Unit report, and ongoing evaluations, and in mutual consultation among all partners involved;

2. Requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the strategy developed for its review and comments.

DRAFT DECISION VII

1993 session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its seventh session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its eighth session, to be held in 1993:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the President of the session.

3. Election of the officers other than the President.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and decisions of the High-level Committee.

6. Report of the South Commission.

7. Organizational and supportive arrangements for technical cooperation among developing countries (such as administrative, legal, information and financial).

8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

9. Provisional agenda for the 1995 session of the High-level Committee.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its eighth session.

DRAFT DECISION VIII

Role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Underlining the principle of equal rights between men and women as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations system, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, to promote the full integration of women in development,

Reaffirming the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, g/

Affirming its decision 6/6 of 29 September 1989 on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the role of women in technical cooperation among developing countries; j/

2. Expresses its concern at the little progress and the lack of practical relevance achieved by the United Nations development system in its endeavours to integrate women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

3. Decides that the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme:

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j/ TCDC/7/5.

(a) Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to the participation of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

(b) Assist in ensuring that full account is taken of women's needs when considering the approval of projects for technical cooperation among developing countries;

(c) Continue to monitor progress made in the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries with special emphasis on the monitoring of action-oriented efforts;

(d) Cooperate with the relevant units in UNDP in the development and improvement of guidelines to ensure full access and participation of women in activities of technical cooperation among developing countries;

4. Urges the heads of all organs of the United Nations development system to fully support and cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme in all aspects of the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

5. Urges developed countries to continue to support actively the integration of women in technical cooperation among developing countries;

6. Invites developing countries to continue to intensify efforts to fully integrate women in their activities of technical cooperation among developing countries, taking fully into account the vast potential of appropriate technologies for the improvement of the situation of women;

7. Requests the Administrator to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its eighth session.

DRAFT DECISION IX

The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission

The High-level Committee,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 45/195 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note also of The Challenge to the South: The Report of the South Commission, k/ especially its contents regarding the role of South-South cooperation, particularly the priority areas contained therein,

Noting that the report gives a new impulse to economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

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k/ New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

1. Welcomes the inclusion of an item entitled "Report of the South Commission" in the programme of work of the High-level Committee, given its relevance to the issues relating to cooperation among developing countries;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in close cooperation with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, to prepare a report on the extent to which the recommendations of the report of the South Commission on TCDC could be implemented;

3. Further requests the Administrator to report to the High-level Committee at its eighth session on the implementation of the present decision.

DRAFT DECISION X

International Consultative Meeting on TCDC

The High-level Committee

1. Welcomes the decision of the Government of Morocco to host an international consultative meeting on technical cooperation among developing countries in 1992 to examine ways and means to enhance this form of cooperation, taking into account the current state of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries; g/

2. Calls upon States Members to be represented at the meeting at the highest level possible;

3. Calls upon the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Development Programme, to support the Government of Morocco in organizing the meeting.

DRAFT DECISION XI

North-South round table on technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee

1. Invites donor countries to give growing attention to technical cooperation among developing countries in their foreign aid allocations;

2. Urges in particular interested Governments to organize a North-South round table comprising a selected number of countries and personalities to reflect on and assess general issues of technical cooperation among developing countries.

DRAFT DECISION XII

TCDC/ECDC in the field of interregional trade

The High-level Committee

1. Underlines the need to undertake follow-up action to the ECA/ECLAC Joint Meeting of Governmental Experts from Africa and Latin America on Economic and Technical Cooperation, held from 1 to 4 June 1982 in Addis Ababa, and to its action-oriented proposals in the areas of interregional TCDC/ECDC, namely, trade and finance, science and technology, and human resources, and to that end:

(a) Urges ECA and ECLAC to start immediate consultations with a view to the rapid implementation of the first item in the above-mentioned proposals, i.e. establishing a trade network between the two regions;

(b) Invites both regional commissions to give consideration to a phase I project aimed at establishing trade networks in their respective regions that would be linked up interregionally upon completion of the regional stage;

(c) Requests the two regional commissions to reinforce existing contacts with regional and subregional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States and the Latin American Economic System, as well as development finance institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the African Development Bank;

2. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to engage prompt action with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for ensuring their early involvement in the implementation of the above-mentioned trade network project, and to report at the organizational and special sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1992.